View from the
Blackdown Hills

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New hope for A30/A303 road improvement plans

A LEADING councillor has said he is hopeful that long-awaited improvements to the A30/A303 will be given the go ahead this autumn.

Councillor Paul Diviani – one of Honiton's county council representatives – said dualling of the carriageway could be carried out "very quickly" if funding is approved in the Chancellor's autumn statement in December.

Calls for the road – dubbed the "Holiday Highway" - to be expanded go back more than 20 years but have been held up by opposition campaigners who say dualling the route will spoil the surrounding countryside.

Highways bosses at Devon County Council, along with partner organisations, have been working on plans to improve the road between Honiton and Broadway.

And the progress of their study was set out in a series of public exhibitions earlier this summer.

Ahead of the statement, Councillor Diviani said he was now "hopeful" that the project would be given the green light.

Reporting at a recent Honiton Town Council meeting, he said: "We are expecting to hear about funding for the A30/A303 project in the autumn statement and hopefully the government will say 'yes'.

"The plans have been drawn up and went out for consultation, and what a very good job Devon County Council has done. Hopefully this will come through very quickly."

■ SOUTH Somerset MP, David Laws, has also added his support to the campaign to see improvements to the stretch of road.

He met with Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin recently to discuss the need for improvements to the A303 and the A358 roads.

Mr Laws has been a strong supporter of the campaign to dual the A303 east of the Blackdown Hills for a number of years and has also called for an extra carriageway to be added to the stretch of the A358 leading up to the M5 from Ilminster.

Mr Laws said: "My meeting with the Transport Secretary was a very positive one. I had the opportunity to talk him through the considerable list of problems which motorists face when they use the A303 and I was able to highlight how important it is for everybody in our region that the entire length of the road to the east of the Blackdown Hills is dualled.

"We have had to put up with a road which often causes staggeringly long delays for far too long.

"It is in the best interests of everybody in the region that the road is dualled so that the South West can rely on an improved transport infrastructure which adequately serves our needs. At the moment we simply do not have that."

■ The Ferne Animal Sanctuary Fun Dog Show, held in Wambrook near Chard, has raised a massive £3,100 for the facility. Pictured are some of the dogs who took part with their owners.

Turn to page 7 for full story and photos

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Project launched to mark end of Second World War

A PROJECT to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War has been launched by Somerset County Council's Heritage Service following a grant of £47,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The project, called "War Stories: Reflections on the End of the Second World War", will focus on recording and sharing video testimony of people whose lives were shaped by the war.

Armed forces veterans from Somerset will tell their stories, as well as other people who directly experienced the war, including members of the Women's Land Army, evacuees and civilians.

The project's centrepiece will be an exhibition at The Museum of Somerset in Taunton, which will open in Spring 2015. The exhibition will feature video interviews as well as objects, photographs and documents collected as part of the project.

A website will also be created allowing people from Somerset and beyond to engage with the video interviews. There will be many other opportunities for people to get involved, including through volunteering, attending events or participating in learning activities.

David Hall, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for heritage, said: "This project comes at a significant time. As the number of people who experienced the war gradually grows smaller it has become ever more important to capture the first-hand testimony of a remarkable generation. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for making the project possible."

Commenting on the grant award, HLF's Head of South West, Nerys Watts, said: "All communities living in the UK were affected by the Second World War in some way, either by the events that took place, or by the changes it brought about. We are delighted to support projects such as this one, which both help to preserve the first hand memories and experiences of those people who lived through the wartime period, and also allow us all to understand the influence of wartime events on the way we live today, as well as enabling new generations to mark the key anniversaries of the war."

The project has also been generously supported by a range of other funders, including the Somerset Military Museum Trust, the Friends of the Museum of Somerset and the Rifles and Light Infantry Association.

Hoping to be bowled over with support for charity challenge

DAVE pictured taking part in a previous race

COTLEIGH man Dave Rawlings is seeking teams for a ten-pin bowling competition in aid of Epilepsy Research UK.

The event is part of a fundraising effort which will also see the 60-year-old tackle the Great West and Great South Runs in October as well as next year's London Marathon. It is all in memory of his daughter's close friend who passed away five years ago.

Toby was just 26 when he died after suffering an epileptic fit in his sleep. To help reach a fundraising target of £2,000, Dave has organised a charity bowling night for Wednesday, October 8th from 7.30pm.

He is looking for up to 22 teams of six to get involved, at £10 per player.

Dave said: "I've been fundraising for a number of years for Epilepsy Research UK as we try to find a cure.

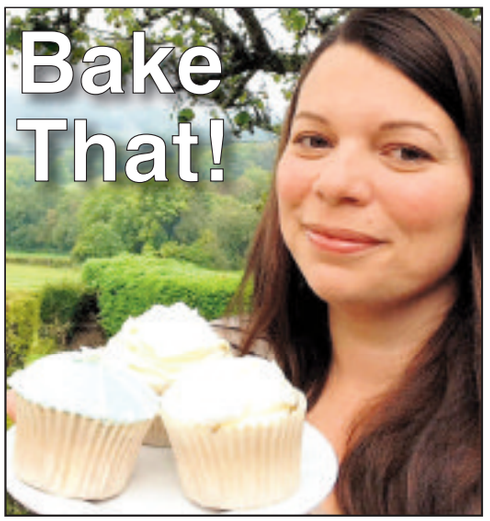
"Toby was completely unaware that he had epilepsy, and this cruel condition took him away in the middle of the night while he slept.

"This year I'm taking on the challenge of the Great West Run in Exeter and also the Great South Run in Portsmouth, plus I've set myself the target of running next year's London Marathon as well.

"Having broken my leg in a skiing accident in 2012, this is certainly going to be a big test, but I'm up for it.To help me reach my fundraising target, Tenpin Bowling Exeter has kindly agreed to host this bowling night."

To book your place or find out more, e-mail Dave at ERUKfundraising@gmail.com.

Bake That!



A LOCAL confectioner was given a sweet surprise when she found out she was baking a cake for a celebrity pop star.

Claire Arscott, owner of Offwell-based Claire Makes Cakes, was handed a special request to craft a birthday cake for someone by the name of Marjorie, but later received a payment into her account from a Mr G Barlow.

"My husband noticed the name on the account and joked that Gary Barlow, of Take That fame, had made the booking," said Mrs Arscott.

"But I was amazed to then receive an email from his personal assistant relating to the cake."

Mrs Arscott later delivered the cake to a family party at the River Cottage restaurant in Axminster, where some of Mr Barlow's relatives had gathered together.

She added: "I didn't expect to meet the family but I was very proud to create a bespoke cake for such a well-known celebrity."

View from the Blackdown Hills

is a community newspaper and welcomes contributions of news and photos from individuals, schools, organisations and businesses within the Blackdown Hills.

Please email your contributions to lisa@pemedia.co.uk jackie@pemedia.co.uk or blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

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Lottery grant enables launch of new metal makers project

THE Blackdowns Hills will soon be alive with the sound of digging as a new project to bring the ancient iron working heritage of the area to life launches with an excavation at Churchinford.

Project partners The Carousel Project, The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership and Somerset County Council are delighted after receiving £21,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to make the project a reality.

The excavation, targeted in an area of known iron working activity, marks the beginning of a nine month project to develop new, innovative learning materials and special events on an iron working theme to local people of all ages.

This ambitious project aims to work closely with preschoolers, schoolchildren, students, families, the general public and academics to produce materials as diverse as iron working play packs, dramatised historical filming with schoolchildren, an iron working walks leaflet and a new iron working website complete with academic information as well as a children's area.

"The Blackdown Hills has a rich iron working past and we want Blackdowns Metal Makers to increase understanding of how the iron working industry was rooted in the area's geology and in turn left its mark on the landscape," said Katherine Findlay from the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership.

Commenting on the awards, Marie Leverett, from early years creative learning initiative The Carousel Project said: "We're thrilled to receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for Blackdowns Metal Makers and we have some exciting things planned for this project.

"Working on the Local Stories project last year, which was also supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, gave us a real thirst to explore how heritage themes could be communicated to the youngest members of our society and we aim to push the boundaries of what is possible during this project.

"Songs and storytelling have been used for centuries as a way to communicate information, excite and inspire listeners, stir up curiousity and to be passed on through generations and we want to explore this method of learning more by working with Hemyock preschool and primary school children on developing inspirational new learning materials."

Nerys Watts, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said: "The ability to smelt and work iron by a variety of different and increasingly sophisticated means has marked significant steps forward in the history of civilisation and has had a profound effect on communities from a local to an international level. HLF is delighted to be supporting the Blackdown Metal Makers project in its investigation of the iron working heritage of its own area, which will give local people and visitors alike an understanding of their locality's place in the history of an important global trade"

The excavation at Churchinford started at the end of September. If anyone would like to volunteer please email Community Archaeologist Marc Cox on MACox@somerset.gov.uk to register your interest.

Watch out for the Iron Working Storytelling Tour next spring lauching at Tiverton Museum then heading off to Honiton, Chard, Wellington, Axminster and the Blackdown Hills. More info at http://www.the-carouselproject.org.uk/blackdowns-metal-makers and on the Blackdown Hills AONB website.

Julia's scones get chef's seal of approval

JULIA Williams (centre) with Janet Street-Porter and chef Brian Turner

A CREAM tea specialist has been heralded among the best in Devon by a pair of top television personalities who stopped by to pay a visit recently.

Presenter Janet Street-Porter and TV chef Brian Turner called in at Royal Oak Farm in Cotleigh, near Honiton, to sample expert confectioner Julia Williams' award-winning scones.

The famous faces were filming for their BBC series 'A Taste of Britain' and complimented Mrs Williams' "delicious" cream teas during a one-off visit.

A crew of producers and cameramen took over the farm shop for the morning and footage from the visit was broadcast around the country last month.

Mrs Williams said: "I have been making cream teas in Devon for 30 years now and am lucky enough to have been presented with a handful of awards.

"I don't think Janet is one for eating lots of cream and sugary snacks, but Brian came up to me afterwards and said it was superb.

"The secret is to work with fresh produce every day – I always use proper, homemade ingredients and make my scones from scratch."

New church door appeal tops £5,000

FUNDRAISIERS are already half way to meeting their £10,000 target to install a new oak framed glazed door to the outside porch of St Mary's parish church, Hemyock.

A fundraising appeal was launched in the parish back in the summer and after only a couple months fundraisers have already raised more than half the amount needed to install the door.

A spokesperson for the church said: "We are delighted with the response so far and are over halfway to the £10,000 needed, but we still need your support to reach our target."

The new memorial door will provide extra light allowing the inner doors to be left open without compromising heat or security at the church. Donations are being collected in memory of loved ones and a leaflet giving details of the project has gone to every house in the parish.

There will be a Memorial Book where names and messages will be on display in the church.

Further details can be obtained from churchwardens – David Bawler (01823 680352) email bawler1952@hotmail.com; or Jenny Doble (01823 680174).

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Enjoy the Blackdowns this autumn and winter

The new edition of the popular Blackdown Hills countryside events programme is now available, packed with activities for the autumn and winter.

Children and adults alike can explore the countryside hunting for mushrooms or meet some cute, curly-haired goats on a farm open day.

There is an opportunity to experience the Wellington Monument at night at a very special carol singing event. Workshops include spoon carving, chair making or hedge laying – you can even get creative with rustic Christmas decorations.

Or it you want to get fit in the great outdoors, there are friendly work parties where you can help keep local habitats in great shape. The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team's information officer Katherine Findlay said: "Autumn and winter are wonderful in the Blackdown Hills – the hedgerows turn copper, there's frost in the fields and the winter woods are magical. It's a great time to explore, so I'd encourage anyone to check out the new events programme and come and join us outdoors!"

The countryside events programme is published by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership.

It is available as a booklet from local tourist information centres and libraries, as well as some shops and pubs.

The full programme is available on the Blackdown Hills AONB's website, or call the AONB office on 01823 680681 for your copy.

THE Blackdown Hills in winter. Photo by Gary Spencer

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Butchers' boost for playgroup

LOCAL butchers Complete Meats has dished out another round of donations to help charitable causes in and around Honiton.

Twice a year, the business collects applications for support from local organisations and hands over cheques for £50 to the first three drawn at random.

Worthy causes in line for a helping hand on this occasion included the Yarcombe and Stockland playgroup, Hospiscare and Outreach International.

The crucial cash will be put towards refurbishment work at the playgroup, with new decorations and updated equipment lined up to renovate the building.

And a further £50 donation will go straight into the fundraising pot for a group of three volunteers, represented by Chloe Beavers (right), who are due to head out on a 120-mile Sahara trek in November.

Also pictured are Complete Meats Manager Martin Farnes (centre), as well as Sarah Thompson, Sarah Bilson and a group of youngsters all from the playgroup.

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Blackdown Hills Transition Group

Global days of action

GLOBAL Day of Action on Climate Change is due to take place and will have passed by the time you read this article, on September 21st 2014.

Aimed to coincide with the World Leaders' Climate Summit in New York, a march organised in New York aims to be the biggest climate demonstration the US has ever seen, and more than 900 solidarity events are planned globally on the same weekend.

Here in the UK many different people and organisations are marching from Temple Station in London to Parliament Square. One of the many groups supporting the day is National Federation of WI (NFWI) with their campaign "For the Love of…." Too many things that we love could be changed forever, such as bees and their honey, coffee and chocolate whose production is threatened by rising temperatures, to the farms that flooded earlier this year.

The NFWI are calling on Prime Minister David Cameron to show leadership by outlining the UK's commitment to tackling climate change in the UN talks on September 21st.

We'll update you as to whether the UN talks and the local actions about Climate Change have any impact other than raising awareness.

All positive actions we can take are important from recycling to re-using our precious resources.

Research suggests we are using three times more resources from this planet earth than it has to support us. So every little part we all can contribute can help especially keeping a positive outlook.

Don't forget our apple days coming up in October: Sunday, October 12th at Otterhead Lodge, Culmhead, TA3 7EE midday to 4pm; Saturday, October 18th Stentwood Farm, Dunkeswell, EX14 4RW 11am to 4pm; and Sunday, October 19th Stentwood Farm, Dunkeswell, EX14 4RW 11am to 4pm.

The apple days are also generously supported by Blackdown Hills AONB and Vigo the local Dunkeswell firm trading in juicing equipment.

Our next Transition Meeting will be being held in the Candlelight Pub, Bishopwood TA20 3RS on Tuesday, October 7th start at 7.30pm.

If you fancy meeting others with a concern for local resilience to meet the challenges of climate change and energy depletion come along and join in or contact us via the website www.blackdownhillstransition.org.

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Blackdowns clubs and societies

HEMYOCK WI

THE September meeting of Hemyock WI was held in Forbes Lounge on Tuesday September 2nd.

The president, Lyn Taylor, welcomed members and said it was good to be back in the usual venue after the summer break as members had visited Sheppy's Museum and Cider Farm in August.

Lyn and Judith Major had been playing croquet at Budleigh Saterton that very day. It had been a very enjoyable experience and had been organised by the County Federation. Lyn thanked members who had provided cakes and served refreshments at the village's World War I commemoration (pictured below). This proved both an interesting and profitable event.

Lyn reminded members that the Autumn Council Meeting would be held in Barnstaple on October 15th and a delegate was needed.

The WI lunch organised by Sandra had been much enjoyed. This was the first one and was held at the Strand in Culmstock. The second one would be at Churchinford.

Lyn then proceeded to demonstrate Needle Felting. She had brought enough equipment for everyone to have a go at this interesting craft. There was at least one pricked finger and several broken needles, but all agreed it had been very interesting.

Lyn was thanked by Brenda, the vice president. Lyn judged the competition for an item made from felt and awarded Marie first place. Bridget came second.

In the flower competition, Bridget came first with a hydrangea, Annette came second and Cindy and Sally Woodman tied third.

Lyn reminded members that the speaker at the meeting on October 7th would be Dr Gavin Hague. His topic will be 'Creating a Wild Life Garden'.

The competitions will be for Flower and 'A herbal Remedy'.

Hemyock WI meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Forbes Lounge which is part of the Parish Hall.

CLAYHIDON FRIENDS

ELAINE Bush graced September's meeting with a relaxed and friendly talk on her career of some 30 years as a beautician.

She described how her clients are welcomed when they enjoy a facial or massage at Elaine's Beauty Room in the Healthy Living Centre at Hemyock, and the kind of advice they receive from her. She is aware of the importance of the health of the skin, and will suggest a client visit the GP if there is a concern. Angela was persuaded to be a model so that Elaine could demonstrate the correct facial cleansing routine of the face. Then it was question time. Members had a variety of queries, and Elaine was able to give lots of tips and ideas on skin care, hair removal etc.

It was a pleasant change for members to have an evening devoted to more personal issues, and was not only useful, but thoroughly enjoyable.

BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

THE September meeting was chaired by Mary Gusterson who welcomed 20 members and two visitors.

The monthly walk, which started from the car park in Hemyock, was led by Penny Gale. After walking through the village and up to Culm Davy the seven ladies stopped for lunch at Culmstock Beacon. They then climbed down a steep path and on to cross the River Culm and up the other side to Southwoods Farm, then following through woodland and road to complete the circular eight mile walk.

Janet Grabham told members of the wedding at which the hand bell group had performed, and said that practice with Christmas songs and carols would begin soon as several engagements had been booked.

A card of thanks from Hazel Tucker was read out giving thanks for the flowers and good wishes sent to her following her knee operation.

A board was circulated for help with catering for the planned 'Afternoon Tea' on Sunday 19th September.

The speaker was Doctor Brian Stoner, Chairman of Minehead RNLI, and also a retired GP and former lifeboat crew member. The RNLI, dedicated to saving lives at sea and around the coasts of Britain and Ireland, was started in 1824. It now has an active fleet of more than 340 all-weather and inshore lifeboats.

Dr Stoner asked "which lifeboat station is the busiest". The answer is Tower Station on the Thames, and the busiest coastal station Southend-on-Sea.

Looking out over the broad expanse of the Bristol Channel, Minehead Lifeboat Station has been operated from the same boathouse for more than 100 years. It was built shortly after the rescue of a ship that was being towed from Bristol to St David, which broke its line in very rough weather. At that time the nearest lifeboat station was at Lynmouth but their boat was not able to be launched due to the high seas. Instead it was hauled across land, including up Porlock Hill to reach Porlock where it could be launched. After that rescue it was decided to have a boat at Minehead and land was donated by the Luttrell family.

The saving of lives at sea is not just a job for the men and Dr Stoner told the meeting of events involving women. In 1838 Grace Darling with her father rowed a mile to sea to rescue people and she became a heroine. In the early days of the RNLI women were often seen helping to launch the boats and other jobs. 1969 saw the first woman, Elizabeth Hostvedt, on an inshore boat, followed in 1981 by Frances Gody.

Today millions of women are involved in fundraising, and the Minehead crew includes two women. All crew members are volunteers, most having other jobs as well. After being accepted they undergo full training at the college in Poole.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI

FROM Fitzhead to Fitzhead in two and a half years, and many thousands of miles.

Ken Roberts took members of Sampford Arundel on a bicycle ride in the comfort of their chairs. There were slides of the countries and people, but also verbal snapshots of his adventures, from eating croissants (France) cannabis, (Azerbaijan) KFC (China) and drinking fermented mares' milk, (Kazerbaijan).

He faced bears and crocodiles – somewhat less dangerous than the sign in Louisiana saying 'You steal, I kill'. He travelled through snow, high winds, monsoons and searing heat. But the final leg of the journey was the most dangerous - from Taunton to Fitzhead!

Back to more local issues. Several visitors and new members were warmly welcomed. There were reviews of past summer events in WI world, the village fete, the anniversary, summer lunch (with wedding), cream tea, Wellington walk and supper, and tea for a Devon WI.

Events coming up in this month include skittles, 'craft and laugh' fashion show and many more dates up to Christmas.

Finances are secure, and the treasurer gave a brief explanation on Country Women of the World, which seeks to help women in deprived areas of the world to gain more knowledge and thus more control of their lives and families.

Members were invited to continue to 'Knit for Peace' and patterns were available.

October is an ideal month to join the WI as you can have three months free.

Top dogs show off their skills at fun show

THE Ferne Animal Sanctuary Fun Dog Show, held in Wambrook near Chard, raised a massive £3,100 for the facility.

Held last month, great weather encouraged a huge turnout of competitors from Dorset, Devon and Somerset.

A whopping £3,150.76 was raised - up from £1,800 last year.

Sharon Pavey, newly appointed head of fundraising and marketing at Ferne Animal Sanctuary said: "We would like to say an enormous thank you to all the people involved in making the 2014 Fun Dog Show such a success this year.

"Thanks go to our Novelty judge J J from Coombefield Veterinary Surgery and his steward Jenny Sweet, and to our new judge of the Obedience class Paula Tennyson, with her steward Geoff, and thanks to Andrew Duke for compering.

"A special thank you to all our incredibly hardworking staff and volunteers without whom we could not put on events like these."

Winners: Best veteran (seven years and older) - was won by Zack, a 16-year-old dachshund owned by Karen Clarke of Crewkerne. This class was sponsored by Coombefield Veterinary Hospital.

Best child handler (aged six-14 years Brockway Cup) - was won by Maisie, a Spanish water dog owned by Amy Hart from Donyatt. This class was sponsored by Coombefield Veterinary Hospital.

Dog with the Waggiest Tail - won by Digger, a one-year-old cocker spaniel owned by Sam Redman of Chard. This class was sponsored by The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company.

Scruffiest Dog - was won by Pip, a two-year-old terrier cross owned by Janet Dodgson from Honiton. This class was sponsored by Alro Services Lt.

Dog Most Like its Owner - was won by Locke, an eight-year-old Lurcher owned by Carol Pickering of Dalwood. This class was sponsored by E J Grabham Electrical Contractor Ltd.

Dog The Judge Would Most Like to Take Home - was won by Ruby, a seven-month-old Chug owned by Elaine of Taunton. This class was sponsored by E J Grabham Electrical Contractor Ltd

Dog With Most Appealing Eyes - was won by Mia, a five-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier owned by Neil Lee of Feniton. This class was sponsored by Rathbones.

Prettiest Bitch - won by Ella, a German shorthaired pointer owned by Caroline Drysdale of Dorset. This class was sponsored by Nick Medforth Building Contractor.

Most Handsome Dog - won by Nuka, a one and a half-year-old German shepherd dog husky owned by Jo Southway of Keinton Mandeville. This class was sponsored by Lentell.

Best Rescue dog (BIBI AWARD) - won by Riley, a one-year-old cross breed owned by Lee Jones of Yeovil.

Special rosette for Best Ferne rescue dog - won by Bill, a four-year-old border collie owned by Sue Taylor of Axminster. This class was sponsored by Boat Building Academy.

The Obedience Class winners: Starters - won by Taylor, a working sheep dog owned by Gill Lawrence of Seavington. This class was sponsored by Achesons.

Triers - won by Taylor, a working sheep dog owned by Gill Lawrence. This class was sponsored by Boat Building Academy.

Improvers - won by Toffee, an 11-year-old border collie owned by Gill Lawrence. This class was sponsored by Westcrete Precast Concrete Ltd.

JUST some of the competitors taking part in the dog show

PICTURED from left are Henry Farrant, judge Tony Spiller and David Major

Blooming marvellous

THE Hemyock Gardener's Association held their autumn show last month at the parish hall.

The show was well supported with a good display of vegetables, pot plants and cut flowers.

The Floral Art Class had a good range of exhibits and Monica Smith was the winner of that section with most points.

The culinary classes, judged by Pam Martin, was very competitive but it was Judith Major who emerged the winner.

Chairman, David Major, said it had been a successful day and thanked all who had contributed in any way.

Special thanks went to Barbara, Marie and Judith for keeping tally of the points, and to Brenda and helpers for serving excellent lunches and to the children who had helped to make it a happy day with their colourful pictures and amusing animals.

Cup winners were Monica Smith, Kathy Jones, John Butterwith, Judith Major and Brenda Calcraft.

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Doreen takes a dive to celebrate 80th

EIGHTY-year-old Doreen Chippington (pictured right) with her son and grandsons after their skydive

DOREEN makes her way back to Earth

BACK on firm ground

A PENSIONER from Awliscombe has taken fundraising to new heights by jumping out of a plane for her local church.

However, this isn't the first time Doreen Chippington has completed a skydive. She completed her first jump 10 years ago to celebrate her 70th birthday and decided to take to the skies again for 80th, but this time to also raise funds for St Michael and All Angels Church in Awliscombe.

By successfully compeleting her jump she has managed to raise £1,200 to help replace stolen lead and repair damage to the church roof.

Doreen was joined on her jump by her son and grandsons.

Doreen said: "We did have a wait of some seven hours as the cloud cover built up and we couldn't jump until 5pm. However, finally we all had a thrilling Skydive from 15,000 ft - My son Michael, was sponsored to raise money for The Autistic Society, and my grandson Haddon was raising money for Cancer Research and Toby, The Pastors at Beachy Head."

She added: "I have been immensely touched by the amazing generosity and support of so many people and am very happy that our worthy causes will really benefit from our family skydive."

Drivers are targeted in police operation

OFFICERS from the Honiton Neighbourhood Team have taken part in a national operation to tackle metal thefts.

Officers teamed up with specialist officers from the Road Crime Unit with colleagues from Dorset Police – Automatice Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Team, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) HM Customs and Excise, local authority licensing officers, Hidden Economy Officers, Network Rail Office, Dairy Industry Trolley Recovery Manager.

Stop checks of motorists took place between 9am – 3pm on Wednesday, September 10th at the A30/A303 split – Devonshire Cross Inn.

During this time, 144 motorists were stopped.

The total number of offences detected was 79. They ranged from a vehicle testing positive for red diesel where the driver was fined £289; five vehicles with no MOT, five vehicles with no insurance, three drivers were found to have no driving licence, five drivers were caught using their mobile phone whilst driving, nine were not wearing a seat belt, and 12 vehicles had defective tyres.

Other offecnces included one HGV driver receiving a fixed penalty notice for driving without Due Care and Attention and another driver was issued a cannabis warning with referral to the DVLA.

Due to the above success, these operations will continue in the near future.

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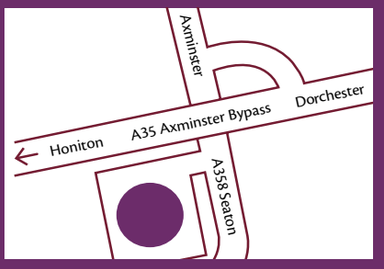

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- Husky Dog Sled ride
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Prague Christmas Markets

Flying direct from Bristol
Departs 1, 5, 8, 11 & 12 December 2014

Join us on this hugely popular break to the capital of the Czech Republic, to enjoy the atmosphere of this special place at this very special time of year.

Price includes

- Return flights to Prague from Bristol
- Airport to hotel transfers
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation at the three-star Hotel Duo (a range of four-star hotels are available at a supplement)
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Flying direct from Bristol
Departs 1, 4, 12 & 15 December 2014

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Berlin's Christmas Markets

Some sixty traditional Christmas markets offering festive wares, delicacies and unusual goods, a vast range of shops and some fascinating sightseeing opportunities ensure this is an unforgettable festive few days.

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Join us in the winter-warming, welcoming surroundings of Jersey's charming capital St Helier. With its maritime atmosphere, comfortable hotels and beautiful surrounding countryside, this a perfect place for a Christmas break.

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Christmas in the Highlands

Celebrate Christmas this year amid the mountains and moorlands of the Scottish Highlands. Enjoy sightseeing, entertainment and traditional Highland hospitality and have a truly memorable Yuletide break.

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4★ Edinburgh Christmas Markets

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Swiss Christmas Markets

A stay in the beautiful resort of Chateau d'Oex and a visit to the sparkling Lake Geneva resort of Montreux, with its quayside Christmas market, as well as the chance on an optional excursion to visit the exquisite Swiss capital Bern, ensure that this is a truly wonderful festive break.

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New wildlife training scheme launched to help improve skills in conservation

A NEW training programme "Wildlife Skills" has been awarded £829,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), allowing four Wildlife Trusts in the South West to train 46 aspiring conservationists over the next three years.

The scheme is designed to address the skills shortages within the South West conservation sector, and has already appointed 16 trainees based at Devon Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Each will focus on one of three areas; practical conservation, survey and monitoring or volunteer and community engagement.

As well as gaining formal qualifications, the trainees will receive complimentary training in transferable skills to enhance their future employability and consolidate their learning by working with Wildlife Trust staff.

Wildlife Skills Co-ordinator, Dr Rachel Janes, said: "This new scheme will give those interested in wildlife a real insight into working in conservation, from learning about communications in the media, to gaining their chainsaw qualifications.

"After they have completed their year-long placement, trainees will have the skills and confidence to take their careers forward in the work place. The wildlife trusts involved are delighted to be part of this programme, and are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has helped make it happen."

Luke Workman, Wildlife Skills volunteer and engagement trainee based at Devon Wildlife Trust said: "A special moment for me was introducing a rockpool crab to a child for the first time, it was great to see the fear of holding the creature be replaced with a fascination and excitement for wildlife. I realised that some of the animals I take for granted, other people have never encountered before.

"What a privilege it is to be the first person to help this little girl meet a crab for the first time!"

Beth Aucott, Wildlife Skills practical conservation trainee based at Somerset Wildlife Trust said: "The most exciting thing for me so far, apart from seeing my first wild otter, has been working with the people who are so passionate about looking after wildlife. I have already learnt so much; I've improved my identification skills, honed and learnt new practical skills, such as brushcutting, and learnt about grants, working with graziers and management plans."

The scheme aims to diversify the future of conservation by providing opportunities for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly young people and those in transitional phases of their lives and careers.

New placements will be available in summer 2015.

For more information about the training scheme please visit www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife_skills.

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SOME of the vintage items that were on display at St Mary's Church Hemyock as part of Heritage Sunday

Remembering the good old days with Heritage Sunday

ST Mary's Church, Hemyock, welcomed a steady number of visitors to its Heritage Sunday afternoon when a large number of items depicting "All Our Yesterdays" went on display.

All items were those found up to the end of the 1960s and toys to tools, dolls to dresses, pots to petticoats were among the many things arousing interest.There were many comments of "oh I had one of those" and "I remember my granny using one like that" and even "oh look, that's me in my Brownie uniform".

Two wedding dresses, four sewing machines an array of tools, oil lamps, kitchen utensils, LP's and singles along with show programmes featuring artists such as Cliff Richard who had appeared at Taunton's Gaumont Theatre, all added to the nostalgia.

The afternoon was organised by the Friends of St Mary's who also arranged their usual supply of delicious teas with the event raising £225.

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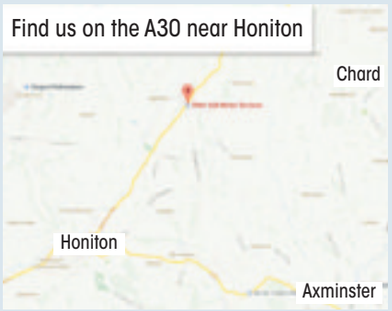

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Well presented 4 bedroom home with character features and rural views. 2 Reception rooms, kitchen/dining room with Rayburn. Beautiful gardens, overlooking open farmland. Parking for several cars. EPC Band D. Web Find: 65387

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Unique barn conversion with annexe and large gardens on the edge of the village. 3 Bedrooms (1 ground floor), 1 bed annexe, 2 reception rooms, conservatory and kitchen / breakfast room. Beautiful south and west facing gardens. EPC Band: D. Web Find: 68427

Guide £530,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

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A four bedroom detached country house with fine views over its attractive garden, paddock and stream, in all approximately 1.3 acres. Lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms (2 en-suite), family bathroom, double garage & workshop. EPC Band F. Web Find: 59052

Guide £485,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

Ford Street 2.1 Acres

A most unusual three bedroom detached cottage with adjoining outbuildings, paddock and grounds. Sitting Room, Dining/Family Room, Kitchen, Utility, 3 Bedrooms (1 En Suite), Bathroom, Workshop, Barn, Garage and Store. EPC Band F. Web Find: 66008

Guide £475,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

Blackborough 0.6 Acre

Detached rural cottage with far reaching views and stunning gardens. 3 Bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, study, utility and bathroom. 0.56 Acres. Garage and parking. EPC Band E. Web Find: 67877

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Ashill

A wonderful Grade II Listed detached cottage boasting a wealth of character features together with workshop and garaging. Sitting Room, Family Room, Kitchen, Utility, WC, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Workshop/Garaging. Web Find: 67608

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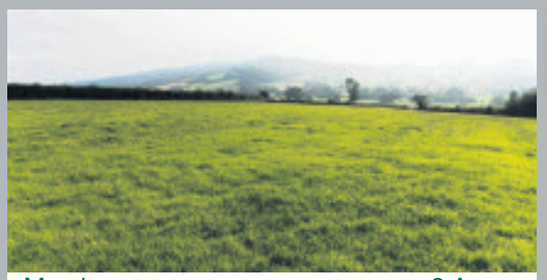

Membury 3 Acres

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Excess £20,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

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STAGS

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Residential Lettings

ARLA Association of Residential Letting Agents

NEW

Angersleigh

A superb unfurnished 4 bedroom barn conversion at the foot hills of the Blackdowns with paddock and annexe. To let on a long term let. Large garden, ample parking and single garage. O.F.C.H. EPC Band D. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 62012

£1,900pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

NEW

Wilmington

Substantial character 4 bedroom unfurnished house. Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms. Extensive gardens (some gardening incl), summer house, outbuildings & parking. O.F.C.H. Pets considered. Available September. EPC band F. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 34282

£1,295 pcm **Honiton 01404 42553**

NEW

Churchinford

A charming furnished 3 bedroom bungalow situated within a peaceful location in the heart of the Blackdown Hills, available on a Winter Let basis. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 42971

£750pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

NEW

Nr Wellington

A beautifully presented detached 4 bedroom unfurnished bungalow, situated in a fine rural location with outstanding views. Land and stables by separate negotiation. O.F.C.H. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 69220

£1,500pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

NEW

Yarcombe

Attractive Grade II Listed character cottage situated within popular village. Hallway, sitting/dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom. Electric heating. Allocated parking, enclosed courtyard. Would suit single/professional couple. Available November. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 33920

£550 pcm **Honiton 01404 42553**

LET FIRST VIEWING

Lowton

A recently redecorated attractive attached stone built cottage situated in a delightful rural location to let on a 6 months plus tenancy. Garden and parking. O.F.C.H. EPC Band E. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 57849

£775pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

NEW

Sampford Arundel

A 3 bedroom semi detached unfurnished cottage situated in a convenient rural yet accessible location at the foot of the Blackdown Hills. Garden, garage and parking. Long term let. EPC Band G. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 39012

£575pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

NEW

Churchinford

A charming fully furnished two bedroom bungalow situated within a peaceful location in the heart of the Blackdown Hills, available on a Winter Let basis. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 32485

£650pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

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